

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5221

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: SUAREZ'S REMARKS - FIRST IMPRESSIONS

REF: MADRID 5215

1. THE MAIN THRUST OF PREMIER ADOLFO SUAREZ' FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT TO THE NATION JULY 6 (SUMMARIZED IN REFTTEL) IS A GENERAL APPEAL TO SPANIARDS OF ALL PERSUASIONS, E.G. THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION, TO LEND A HAND IN PUTTING TOGETHER A NEW POLITICAL FRAMEWORK. SUAREZ DEFINES HIS OWN ROLE AS "TRUSTEE" (GESTOR) AND, PARAPHRASING A STATEMENT USED BY THE KING BEFORE THE US CONGRESS, SPECIFICALLY SAYS FUTURE GOVTS WILL BE CHOSEN ON THE BASIS OF AN ELECTED
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MAJORITY. MEANWHILE, HIS TASK IS TO FINISH THE TASK OF CREATING

THE BASIS FOR THE POLITICAL GAME WHERE EVEN "THE ADVERSARY" WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE. AT THIS JUNCTURE, HIS REMARKS IN ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION IN THE PRESENT GOVT OF ELEMENTS FROM THE CENTER-LEFT OPPOSITION AND THE TACIT ACQUIESCENCE OF SOCIALISTS AND LEFT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS.

2. THE PREMIER'S REMARKS WERE QUITE GENERAL AND HE POINTEDLY LEFT THE TASK OF A PROGRAM TO THE GOVT YET TO BE FORMED. THIS CUTS BOTH WAYS AND THE ABSENCE OF SPECIFICS MAY HANDICAP A CHANGE OF POSTURE BY SOME OUTSIDERS SUCH AS ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA -- LEADER OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC "PARTIDO POPULAR" -- WHO HAVE CONDITIONED THEIR COLLABORATION ON SPECIFIC POLITICAL POINTS, E.G. POLITICAL AMNESTY AND IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION FREEDOMS. BUT SUAREZ'S UNIFORM EMPHASIS ON DIALOGUE AND DEMOCRACY, COUPLED WITH THE THOUGHT THAT THE GOVT'S TASK IS TO CONSTRUCT AN OPEN POLITICAL GAME SO THAT FUTURE GOVTS WILL REFLECT THE FREE WILL OF THE PEOPLE, MAY HAVE BEEN A SUFFICIENT SIGNAL TO MOVE THE CABINET NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD AT SOME POINT -- AND WE MAY HAVE REACHED IT NOW -- THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION WILL HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE ITS "BONA FIDES" AND DISPROVE THE CONCLUSION THAT ITS COMPONENTS ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN AN "ALL OR NOTHING APPROACH".

3. AFTER THE INITIAL ORDERING OF PRIORITIES TO REACH THE DAILY CONCERNS OF THE SPANISH, THE SPEECH IS AN EVOCATION OF THE CONCEPTS OF A DEMOCRATIC MONARCHY, OF A PIECE WITH THE KING'S MESSAGE TO THE JOINT SESSION OF OUR CONGRESS. NOWHERE DOES SUAREZ TALK OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, MUCH LESS EVEN MENTION FRANCO'S NAME AS ARIAS WAS WONT TO DO. SUAREZ EVEN QUOTED FROM OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN SAYING THAT THE ONE ASPIRATION QTE COULD BE REDUCED TO THE NOW CLASSICAL FORMULA, GOVERN WITH THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED UNQTE.

4. NATIONAL RADIO AFTERWARDS HIGHLIGHTED SUAREZ'S IDENTIFICATION

WITH THE DAILY CONCERNS OF THE SPANISH AND THE INTENT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND CROWN TO CONSTRUCT A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM THROUGH DIALOGUE. AND IT THEN HIGHLIGHTED THE SOCIALIST (PSOE) AND LEFT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION (RUIZ GIMENEZ AND GIL ROBLES) CALLS EARLIER TODAY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO WORK WITH THE OPPOSITION UNTIL THE PEOPLE COULD VOTE IN A GOVERNMENT, NOTING THE SIMILARITY

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WITH THEMES IN SUAREZ'S SPEECH. SUAREZ WAS DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL RADIO AND TELEVISION AT ONE TIME, AND THE WHOLE FIRESIDE CHAT LIKE OPERATION BORE THE HALIMARKS OF SOMEONE AWARE OF THE USES OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA.

5. IN RELATED MATTERS, CORTES PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ MIRANDA TOLD THE PRESS A NEW CABINET MIGHT BE ANNOUNCED TOMORROW. HOWEVER, GARCIA LOPEZ OF THE SMALL SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PSDE, WHO HAS BEEN ACTING

AS AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN SUAREZ AND THE OPPOSITION, TOLD US THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC BUT THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FRIDAY BEFORE THE CABINET WAS ANNOUNCED. SUAREZ SAW THIS EVENING COMMERCE MINISTER CALVO SOTELO AND REFORM MINDED LABOR MINISTER MARTIN VILLA, BOTH OF WHOM ARE RUMORED TO BE STAYING IN THE CABINET. HE ALSO SAW THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (TACITO) UNDER-SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MARCELINO OREJA. OREJA COULD WELL BECOME A CABINET MINISTER, BUT HE IS ALSO CLOSE TO AREILZA, REKINDLING SPECULATION THAT AREILZA MAY JUST POSSIBLY BE RECONSIDERING HIS DECISION TO STAY OUT.

6. IN HIS HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE CODE WORDS THAT HAVE BEEN THE HALLMARK OF DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION RHETORIC, SUAREZ HAS GIVEN A PUBLIC SIGNAL TO THE OPPOSITION THAT HE WANTS THEM TO BE A PART OF THE NEW GAME, AN OFFER HE HOPES THEY CAN'T REFUSE. (WE HAVE EVEN BEEN TOLD THE PSOE MIGHT BE WELCOME IN THE CABINET, BUT DOUBT THEY WANT MORE THAN GUARANTEES OF A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.) WE SHOULD HAVE PRIVATE AND AUTHORTATIVE OPPOSITION REACTION IN THE MORNING. NOWHERE IN THESE REMARKS, DID SUAREZ PANDER TO THE QTE BUNKER UNQTE WHOSE RIGHTIST STALWARTS SPEAK UNKINDLY OF HIM AND EVEN THE KING IN PRIVATE. HIS NATURAL CALL FOR PUBLIC ORDER WAS COUCHED IN TERMS OF ITS LINKAGE WITH THE EXERCISE OF LIBERTY.
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